

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 1, line 4, with the following:

The invention relates to a layered filter structure and to a method of manufacturing such a layered filter structure. The invention further relates to the use of a layered filter structure as a surface filter.

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 2, line 5, with the following:

The first layer is supporting the second layer, whereas the second layer is functioning as a separating or filtering layer.

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 5, line 1, with the following:

The second layer may comprise, in addition to the short metal fibers, other metal particles such as long short metal fibers or metal powder particles or a combination of short metal fibers and metal powder particles. The second layer comprises for example between 20 and 80 % short metal fibers and between 20 and 80 % long metal fibers. In an alternative embodiment, the second layer comprises between 20 and 80 % short metal fibers and between 20 and 80 % metal powder particles. With x percent short metal fibers/long metal fibers is meant that x weight percent of the total weight of the second layer consists of short metal fibers/long metals fibers. The porosity of the second layer may range between 50 % and 85 %.

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 5, line 19, with the following:

Any type of metal or metal alloy may be used to provide the metal particles such as the long metal fibers, the short metal fibers or the metal powder particles. The metal particles are for example made of steel such as stainless steel. Preferred stainless steel alloys are AISI 300 or AISI 400-series ~~400-serie~~ alloys, such as AISI 316L or AISI 347, or alloys comprising Fe, Al and Cr, stainless steel comprising chromium, aluminum and/or nickel and 0.05 to 0.3% by weight of yttrium, cerium, lanthanum, hafnium or titanium, known as Fecralloy<sup>®</sup>, are used. The metal particles can also be made of nickel or a nickel alloy.

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 6, line 29, with the following:

According to a third aspect of the present invention the use of a layered filter element as a surface filter is provided. The layered filter element according to the present invention is suitable for the filtration of gases or liquids.

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 8, line 1, with the following:

The short metal fibers are obtained by firstly individualizing to some extent ~~extend~~ metal fibers, being present in a bundle of fibers, in a yarn or a textile structure or even as staple fibers by a carding operation. These more or less individualized fibers are brought into a comminuting device. In this device, each fiber is cut into short metal fibers by fast rotating knives. The blade of these knives, having a certain blade thickness, encounter or "hit" the fibers usually in a radial direction. The fibers are mechanically plastically deformed and entangled or possible broken into fibers with a smaller length. Due to the centrifugal force, the so provided short metal fibers are blown outwardly against the external wall of the comminuting device. This external wall comprises a sieve with well-defined openings. According to these openings, short metal fibers with a certain length may pass through the sieve, whereas too long short metal fibers will stay in the comminuting device, they will be hit again and if they are sufficiently ~~sufficient~~ small they will pass the sieve.